

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

1. (Currently Amended) An isostatic press, comprising:

a pressure chamber for accommodating a pressure medium, the pressure chamber being enclosed by a radially prestressed force-absorbing body having an inner surface being in direct contact with a pressure medium when the pressure chamber is filled with pressure medium;

a prestressing device, provided around an outer envelope surface of the force-absorbing body, ~~the force-absorbing body thereby being radially prestressed~~ for providing the radial prestress in the force-absorbing body; and

at least one tunnel-like passage running essentially over the length of said outer envelope surface of the force-absorbing body, the tunnel-like passage being defined by a groove in said outer envelope surface of the force-absorbing body and a portion of said prestressing device covering said groove, for conducting pressure medium to a point of detection if such medium has leaked out through said force-absorbing body from the pressure chamber to the outer envelope surface of the force-absorbing body.

2. (Previously Presented) An isostatic press, comprising:

a cylindrical element comprising an inner surface defining a pressure treatment chamber for accommodating a pressure medium and an outer envelope surface;

a single prestressing device provided around said outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element, for inducing a radial prestress in the cylindrical element; and

at least one tunnel-like passage running essentially along said outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element, the tunnel-like passage being defined by a groove in said outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element and a portion of said prestressing device covering said groove, for conducting pressure medium to a point of detection if such medium has leaked out from the pressure chamber to the outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element.

3. (Original) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein said force absorbing body is a cylindrical wall of a pressure vessel.

4. (Original) An isostatic press as claimed in claim 2, wherein said cylindrical element is a force-absorbing cylindrical wall of a pressure vessel.

5. (Withdrawn) An isostatic press as claimed in claim 2, wherein said cylindrical element is a protective liner and said prestressing device is a surrounding concentric force-absorbing cylindrical wall of a pressure vessel, wherein the cylindrical wall is shrunk on the outer envelope surface of the protective liner.

6. (Previously Presented) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein said prestressing device is at least one of wire-shaped and band-shaped and is wound around said outer envelope surface.

7. (Withdrawn) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein said prestressing device is cylindrical and is shrunk on said outer envelope surface.

8. (Previously Presented) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area of the tunnel-like passage is dimensioned to conduct a pressure medium flow essentially equal to or larger than the flow of pressure medium supplied into the pressure chamber by a pumping device.

9. (Withdrawn) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cross-sectional area of the tunnel-like passage is dimensioned to conduct a pressure medium flow lower than the flow of pressure medium supplied into the pressure chamber by a pumping device.

10. (Previously Presented) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one tunnel-like passage runs in the form of a spiral around said outer envelope surface and essentially along the whole of its length.

11. (Previously Presented) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein the press comprises at least two tunnel-like passages running essentially along said outer envelope surface, each tunnel-like passage being defined by a respective groove in said outer envelope surface and a portion of said prestressing device covering said groove.

12. (Previously Presented) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least two of said tunnel-like passages run in parallel with each other in the form of

spirals around said outer envelope surface and essentially along the whole of its length.

13. (Withdrawn) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least one groove intersects at least another groove, thereby enabling pressure medium to flow from one tunnel-like passage to another tunnel-like passage.

14. (Withdrawn) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one first groove runs in the form of a spiral inclined in one direction relative to the circumference of said outer envelope surface, and

at least one second groove runs in the form of a spiral inclined in the opposite direction relative to the circumference of said outer envelope surface, thereby intersecting said at least one first groove.

15. (Withdrawn) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 11, wherein the groove is dimensioned and arranged along said outer envelope surface in such manner that, when a crack has propagated through the wall and grown so that it opens into a groove, the crack must not have reached a critical size.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an isostatic press, comprising: providing a cylindrical element comprising an inner surface defining a pressure treatment chamber for accommodating a pressure medium and an outer envelope surface;

providing said outer envelope surface with at least one groove running essentially over the length of said outer envelope surface; and

applying a single prestressing device on said outer envelope surface for inducing a compressive radial prestress in said cylindrical element and simultaneously creating at least one tunnel-like passage defined by said at least one groove and a portion of said prestressing device covering said at least one groove.

17. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said cylindrical element is dimensioned to become a force-absorbing wall of a pressure vessel and wherein the prestressing device is at least one of wire-shaped and band-shaped, the method further comprising winding the prestressing device around and covering essentially the whole outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element.

18. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said cylindrical element is a protective liner and wherein said prestressing device is dimensioned to become a cylindrical wall of a force-absorbing pressure vessel, the method further comprising shrinking said prestressing device on the outer envelope surface of the protective liner.

19. (Previously Presented) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 1, wherein the force-absorbing member forms the pressure chamber, the prestressing device is in direct contact with the outer surface of the force-absorbing body and a portion of the prestressing device is in direct contact with portions of the outer envelope surface that form the groove.

20. (Previously Presented) The isostatic press as claimed in claim 2, wherein a single prestressing device is directly on the outer envelope surface of the cylindrical element.

<End of Claims Listing>